

The solar year is equivalent to about three hundred and sixty-five and a quarter days ; but the ancient Egyptians, ignoring the quarter of a day, reckoned the year at three hundred and sixty-five days only.<sup>1</sup> Thus each of their calendar years was shorter than the true solar year by about a quarter of a day. In four years the deficiency amounted to one whole day ; In forty years it amounted to ten days ; in four hundred years it amounted to a hundred days ; and so it went on increasing until after a lapse of four times three hundred and sixty-five, or one thousand four hundred and sixty solar years, the deficiency amounted to three hundred and sixty-five days, or a whole Egyptian year. Hence one thousand four hundred and sixty solar years, or their equivalent, one thousand four hundred and sixty-one Egyptian years, formed a period or cycle at the end of which the Egyptian festivals returned to those points of the solar year at which they had been celebrated in the beginning.<sup>2</sup> In the meantime they had been held successively on every day of the solar year, though always on the same day of the calendar.

Thus the official calendar was completely divorced, Thus the except at rare and long intervals, from what may be called calendar the natural calendar of the shepherd, the husbandman, and was the sailor—that is, from the course of the seasons in which from the the times for the various labours of cattle-breeding, tillage. natural

\* calendar, and navigation are marked by the position of the sun in the which is sky, the rising or setting of the stars, the fall of rain, the marked by

J, =\* \*\* J a the  
course

growth of pasture, the ripening of the corn,  
the blowing of of the  
certain winds, and so forth. Nowhere,  
perhaps, are the seasons  
events of this natural calendar  
better marked or more  
regular in their recurrence than in Egypt;  
nowhere accord-  
ingly could their divergence from the  
corresponding dates  
of the official calendar be more  
readily observed. The

*siq-ue*<sup>^</sup> i. 207 - 210; Eel. Meyer, *Handbiicli dcr*  
*mathematischen itnd*  
\*\* Aegyplische Chronologic," *Abhand- technischcn Chronologie*<sup>^</sup>  
i. (Leipsic,  
*litngMi dtir kiihiigl. Pruss. Akadcmic* 1906) pp. 150 *sqg.*  
*dcr IVissMisfkafteli;* 1904, pp. 2 *sqg.*; \* Herodotus, ii. 4, with A.  
Wiede-  
*id.j* " Nachtrage zur agyplischen mann's note ;  
Geminus, *Element a*  
Chronologic," *Abhandlungen derAstronomiiae*, 8, p. 106, ed.  
C. Mani-  
*konigt. Preitss. Akadcmie dtr Wissen- tins* (Leipsic, 1898);  
Censorinus, *De*  
*schafien*, 1907, pp. 3 *sqg.*; *id.*, *die natali*<sup>^</sup> xviii. 10.  
*Gcschichtc des Alertiims*\* l. 2. pp.<sup>2</sup> Geminus, *Ekmenta*  
*Astronomiae*,  
28 *sqg.j* 98 *sqg.*; F. K. Ginzel, 8, pp. 106 *sqg.*, ed. C,  
Manitius.